

PROBABLE PREDATION SCAR ON A DEVONIAN BRACHIOPOD. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 42(1): 50. 1997:- A silicified pedicle valve of the brachiopod *Warrenella* sp. was recovered from limestone samples of the Burdekin Formation by acetic acid dissolution. The specimen derived from Queensland Museum Locality QML1094, near Little Rocks, Fletcherview Station, and is registered in the Queensland Museum Palaeontology collection QMF35128. Stratigraphy and data concerning the Givetian age of the Burdekin Formation are outlined by Cook (1995).

The valve (Fig. 1) bears a small depression fracture near the right anterior margin, 9mm wide and approximately 2mm deep. This fracture bears a strong resemblance to scars documented in Carboniferous brachiopods by Alexander (1981) and Gutteridge (1989). Alexander (1981) attributes such crushed valves to seized but uningested individuals being grazed upon by sharks. Gutteridge (1989) similarly attributed such scars to predation by sharks.

Given the minimal amounts of vertebrate fossil material recovered from the entire Burdekin Formation (only four incomplete and unidentifiable bone fragments), it is unclear what likely predators could have been responsible for this scar.

Literature Cited

- ALEXANDER, R.R. 1981. Predation scars preserved in Chesterian brachiopods: probable culprits and evolutionary consequences for the articulates. *Journal of Paleontology* 55(1): 192-203.
- COOK, A.G. 1995. Sedimentology and depositional environments of the Middle Devonian Big Bend Arkose and Burdekin Formation, Fanning River Group, Burdekin

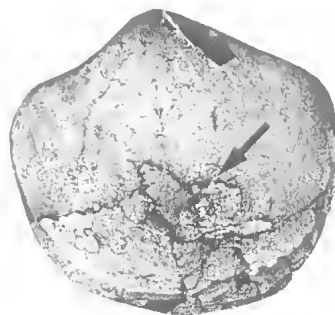


FIG. 1. *Warrenella* sp., QMF35128, arrow indicates probable predation scar, x 1.3. Specimen blackened with colloidal graphite and whitened with ammonium chloride for photography.

Subprovince, north Queensland, Australia. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 38(1): 53-91.

GUTTERIDGE, P. 1989. Shark predation on Dinantian brachiopods from the Derbyshire Dome. *Mercian Geologist* 11 (4): 237-244.

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